



**UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY**  
**OFFICE OF INSPECTOR GENERAL**  
77 W. JACKSON BOULEVARD  
CHICAGO, IL 60604

**CASE #: OI-CH-2019-ADM-0043**

**CROSS REFERENCE #: N/A**

**TITLE:** (b) (6), (b) (7)(C), SES, (b) (6), (b) (7)(C)

**PREPARED BY:** (b) (6), (b) (7)(C)

**CASE CLOSING REPORT**

Subject(s)	Location	Other Data
(b) (6), (b) (7)(C)	Washington D.C.	N/A

**ALLEGATION:** On October 2, 2018, Special Agent (SA) (b) (6), (b) (7)(C) United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), briefed (b) (6), (b) (7)(C) and (b) (6), (b) (7)(C) OIG, EPA, of a matter involving (b) (6), (b) (7)(C) SES, (b) (6), (b) (7)(C) EPA. SA (b) (6), (b) (7)(C) advised of an allegation that (b) (6), (b) (7)(C) guided a subordinate with circumventing a requirement to relocate their residence as part of a promotion the subordinate obtained.

OPR opened a complaint to investigate the allegation.

On 01/28/19 this complaint was reassigned to SA (b) (6), (b) (7)(C) in the Chicago Field Office.

On 02/11/19, this complaint was closed and turned into a case by SA (b) (6), (b) (7)(C).

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**OI-CH-2019-ADM-0043**

**INTERVIEWEE (if applicable):**

**DATE OF ACTIVITY:**

**DRAFTED DATE:**  
6/13/19 – 6/14/19

**AGENT(S):**  
(b) (6), (b) (7)(C)

**RESTRICTED INFORMATION**  
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**BACKGROUND:** On October 2, 2018, SA (b) (6), (b) (7)(C) briefed (b) (6), (b) (7)(C) and (b) (6), (b) (7)(C) of OPR. During this briefing SA (b) (6), (b) (7)(C) described the results of a subject interview of another EPA Employee in (b) (6), (b) (7)(C). The employee explained that (b) (6), (b) (7)(C) was directed by (b) (6), (b) (7)(C), how to avoid having to relocate associated with a promotion. The employee stated that after accepting a GS-14 position with a requirement to relocate to the Washington Field Office of the EPA, (b) (6), (b) (7)(C) received several phone calls and had several discussions with (b) (6), (b) (7)(C). The employee stated (b) (6), (b) (7)(C) directed (b) (6), (b) (7)(C) how to answer questions from Human Resources (HR) and just be on permanent telework from (b) (6), (b) (7)(C) and not relocate while making HR believe you understood the requirement. During the interview, the subject admitted to recording the phone calls with (b) (6), (b) (7)(C) and turned the recordings over to SA (b) (6), (b) (7)(C).

**INVESTIGATIVE FINDINGS:** (b) (6), (b) (7)(C) emailed (b) (6), (b) (7)(C) EPA about the use of the recordings (b) (6), (b) (7)(C) emails advised (b) (5) recordings made by an EPA employee of a (b) (6), (b) (7)(C) EPA employee without the (b) (6), (b) (7)(C) employee's knowledge.

(b) (6), (b) (7)(C) received an email from (b) (6), (b) (7)(C) PA, which stated (b) (6), (b) (7)(C) was issued a Notice of Proposed Suspension and also Decision on Proposed Suspension based on a separate investigation that the EPA did without assistance of the OIG. This email and attachments showed that an effective date for this suspension was for (b) (6), (b) (7)(C) 2018 and (b) (6), (b) (7)(C) would return to work on (b) (6), (b) (7)(C) 2019.

(b) (6), (b) (7)(C) shared a copy of the voice recordings with (b) (6), (b) (7)(C) EPA, recovered from SA (b) (6), (b) (7)(C) interview, which showed (b) (6), (b) (7)(C) directing a subordinate employee how to circumvent a required relocation that came with a promotion. (b) (6), (b) (7)(C) provided these audio recordings to (b) (6), (b) (7)(C) to assist their investigative efforts regarding (b) (6), (b) (7)(C).

After reviewing the OI provided recordings and all the previous evidence recovered during their investigation, the EPA issued a Notice of Proposed Removal on (b) (6), (b) (7)(C)/18. The Notice of Removal contained numerous references to these recordings in Section II, the charging section of the document. Additionally, in Section III Analysis and Penalty Consideration, on page 7, paragraph 1, the deciding official talks about the recordings and how they have helped warrant an enhanced penalty. After receiving the Notice of Removal, (b) (6), (b) (7)(C) resigned effective (b) (6), (b) (7)(C) 2018.

**RECOMMENDATION:** The case was presented to the United States Attorney's Office for the Southern District of Ohio, who declined the matter based on administrative action already taken

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by the agency. Based on the facts of the investigation and that (b) (6), (b) (7) has resigned (b) (6) position, this case is closed.

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**(b) (6), (b) (6)**

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